	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/716,947	ITO, SATOSHI
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Sathyanarayan Pannala	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *11/22/2000*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-4, 7-12,15-20,23-24 Renumbered as 1-18*.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

       1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
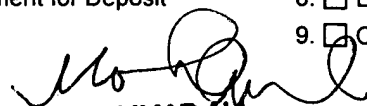
    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date *7*.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date *3 & 5*

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *7* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Sathyanarayan Pannala
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2177

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Eckhard Kuesters on 6/15/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

i) Claim 1:

An electronic catalog maintenance system, comprising:

a dictionary database configured to store dictionary data of an electronic

catalog, the dictionary data being given in a form of a tree structure formed by

identifiers for uniquely identifying classes classifying products and attributes

of the products;

an editing unit configured to edit the dictionary data stored by the

dictionary database by making changes including standard changes defined by

a prescribed standard and out-of-standard changes not defined by the

prescribed standard;

a change status detection unit configured to detect a status of each

change made by the editing unit, and to generate an identifier change data

indicating the status of each change made by the editing unit and updates of

identifiers to be made in the ~~distrionary~~ dictionary data;

an identifier update unit configured to issue a new identifier of each class

or attribute created by an out-of standard change made by the editing unit,

and to retire an old identifier of each class or attribute deleted by an

out-of-standard change made by the editing unit, according to the identifier

change data generated by the change status detection unit; ~~and~~

an identifier change database configured to store the identifier change

data generated by the change status detection unit[.];

a summary generation unit configured to simplify the identifier change

data by deleting any redundant portion from the identifier change data

generated by the change status detection unit;

wherein the identifier change database stores the identifier change

data as simplified by the summary generation unit; and

a quality check unit configured to generate a dictionary system quality

data by evaluating qualities of the dictionary data as a whole and each

element constituting the dictionary data, according to prescribed quality check

rules, after the dictionary data are edited by the editing unit;

wherein the identifier change database also stores the dictionary

system quality data generated by the quality check unit.

ii) Claim 9:

An electronic catalog maintenance method, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing dictionary data of an electronic catalog in a dictionary database, the dictionary data being given in a form of a tree structure formed by identifiers for uniquely identifying classes classifying products and attributes of the products;

(b) editing the dictionary data stored by the dictionary database by making changes including standard changes defined by a prescribed standard and out-of-standard changes not defined by the prescribed standard;

(c) detecting a status of each change made by the step (b), and generating an identifier change data indicating the status of each change made by the step (b) and updates of identifiers to be made in the dictionary data;

(d) issuing a new identifier of each class or attribute created by an out-of-standard change made by the step (b), and releasing an old identifier of each class or attribute deleted by an out-of-standard change made by the step (b), according to the identifier change data generated at the step (c); and

(e) storing the identifier change data generated by the step (c) in an identifier change database[.];

(f) simplifying the identifier change data by deleting any redundant portion from the identifier change data generated by the step (c);

wherein the step (e) stores the identifier change data as simplified by

the step (f) into the identifier change database; and

(g) generating a dictionary system quality data by evaluating qualities of

the dictionary data as a whole and each element constituting the dictionary

data according to prescribed quality check rules, after the dictionary data are

edited by the step (b);

wherein the step (e) also stores the dictionary system quality data

generated by the step (g) in the identifier change database.

iii) **Claim 17:**

A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied

therein for causing a computer to function as an electronic catalog maintenance

system, the computer readable program codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to store

dictionary data of an electronic catalog in a dictionary database, the dictionary

data being given in a form of a tree structure formed by identifiers for uniquely

identifying classes classifying products and attributes of the products;

a second computer readable program code for causing said computer to

edit the dictionary data stored by the dictionary database by making changes

including standard changes defined by a prescribed standard and out-of-

standard changes not defined by the prescribed standard;

a third computer readable program code for causing said computer to

detect a status of each change made by the editing unit, and to generate an

identifier change data indicating the status of each change made by the editing unit and updates of identifiers to be made in the dictionary data;

a fourth computer readable program code for causing said computer to issue a new identifier of each class or attribute created by an out-of-standard change made by the editing unit, and to retire an old identifier of each class or attribute deleted by an out-of-standard change made by the editing unit, according to the identifier change data generated by the third computer readable program code; ~~and~~

a fifth computer readable program code for causing said computer to store the identifier change data generated by the third computer readable program code in an identifier change database[.];

a sixth computer readable program code for causing said computer to simplify the identifier change data by deleting any redundant portion from the identifier change data generated by the third computer readable program code;

wherein the fifth computer readable program code stores the identifier change data as simplified by the sixth computer readable program code in the identifier change database; and

a seventh computer readable program code for causing said computer to generate a dictionary system quality data by evaluating qualities of the dictionary data as a whole and each element constituting the dictionary data

according to prescribed quality check rules, after the dictionary data are

edited by the second computer readable program code;

wherein the fifth computer readable program code also stores the

dictionary system quality data generated by the seventh computer

readable program code in the identifier change database.

Cancel: Claims 5,6, 13,14, 21 and 22.

Drawings

2.   The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and

agreed upon by applicant on 6/15/2004. In order to avoid abandonment of the

application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Insert: PRIOR ART in Fig. 28A and 28B (as shown in the drawings).

Reasons for Allowance

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Prior art of related fails to teach editing a database dictionary of an electronic

    catalog as defined by a standards of a database dictionary, identifier updating

    by deleting old one if it is out of the standards and adding an identifier as per

    standards, modifying identifiers which are not as per standards and reporting

and storing a list of edited identifiers. These claimed elements are in independent claims 1, 9 and 17.

- Joseph et al. (US Patent 6,606,603) teaches a system for electronically ordering items having at least one catalog containing items of offered by a supplier, whereas Paskowitz (US Patent 6,377,937) teaches a taxonomy of characteristics for products and services linked via indexing keys to a companion dictionary of terms.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5.   If a reference indicated, as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is (703) 305-9601 for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (703) 305-3390. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sathyanarayan Pannala
Examiner
Art Unit 2177

srp
June 16, 2004

MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER